

# Hate Crimes

Reflecting on the Inauguration  
of President Obama



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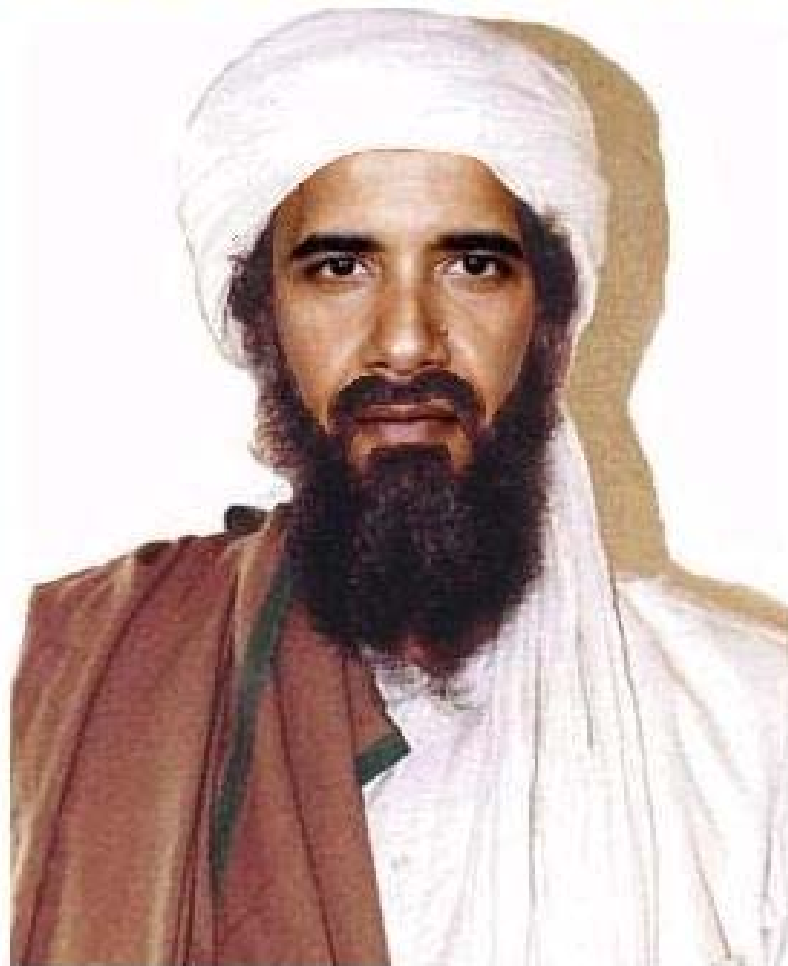
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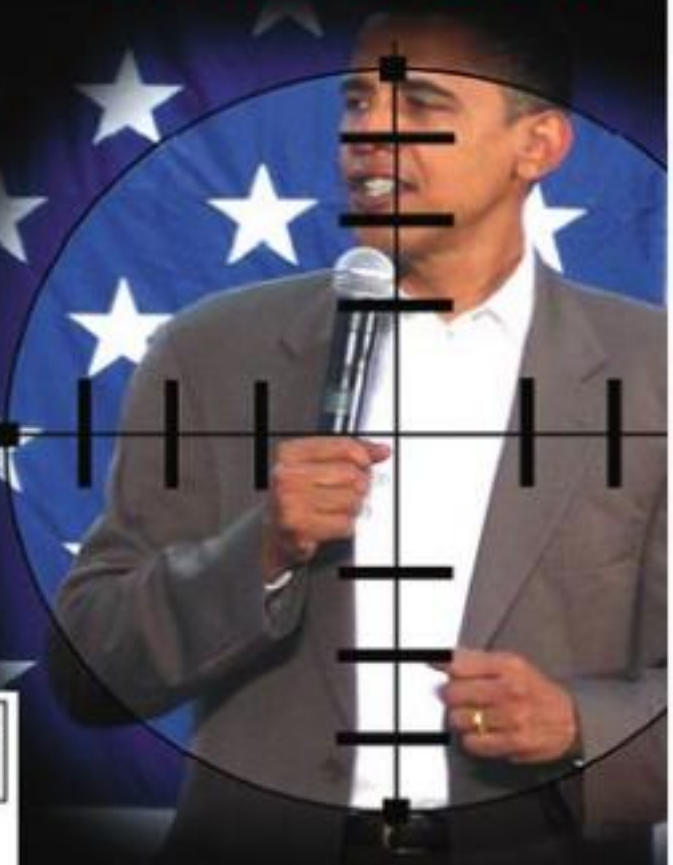


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## WHITE FRIGHT

**Local Law  
Enforcement  
Braces for  
Obama  
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# Department of Civil Rights – Equal Opportunities Division

- Charged with the mission of enabling individuals to live and work free of discrimination.
- Responsible for the remedy of discrimination complaints brought by individuals.
- Provides community education and technical assistance so people know and understand their rights and responsibilities

# Seeking Tolerance & Justice Over Hate (STAJOH)

- Hate Crime Task Force composed of governmental agencies from the City of Madison, Dane County, Madison Metropolitan School District, State of Wisconsin, and the University of WI – Madison, as well as community-based agencies throughout Dane County

# Overview of Presentation

- What is a Hate Crime?
- General Statistics about Hate Crimes
- General Information about Hate Groups
- Symbolism Used by Hate Groups
- Hate Crimes surrounding President Obama's Candidacy / Election / Inauguration

# What is a Hate Crime

- Not itself a crime, but a penalty enhancer
  - Increases the potential penalty of crime
- Must be a **criminal act** – battery, disorderly conduct, etc – before there is a hate crime
- **Hateful conduct alone is not a hate crime**, unless the conduct itself is criminal

# What is a Hate Crime - WI

- The hate crime penalty enhancer is added when the victim of the crime is selected in whole or part based on the victim's class which includes: race, religion, color, disability, sexual orientation, national origin or ancestry

# What is a Hate Crime - Motivation

- The facts of the crime must indicate that the perpetrator intentionally selected the victim in whole or in part because of his/her perception or belief that the victim belongs to one of the protected classes

# What is a Hate Crime – Motivation Demonstrated

- Slurs or demeaning remarks made at the time of the crime
- Threatening messages by phone or mail

# What is a Hate Crime – Motivation Demonstrated

- Symbols or slogans left at the scene
- Crimes committed on specific dates commemorating victim community historical events, religious holidays, or celebrations

# What is a Hate Crime – an Example

- Cottage Grove – January 13, 2009
  - 2 Cottage Grove Teens charged with hate crimes in several incidents where African-American residents of Cottage Grove & Madison's Allied Drive neighborhood were allegedly intimidated and harassed

# What is a Hate Crime – an Example - continued

- A Monona Grove High School student identified only as L.A.R., was repeatedly verbally abused by some of his white classmates who used racial epithets and allegedly called his home repeatedly, saying things like, "Go back to Africa," "We're going to hang you," and "If you try to do something we'll kill you."
- Left deer carcass in L.A.R's driveway in January 2008

# What is a Hate Crime – an Example - continued

- The same two teens were arrested in May 2008 for trying to remove an Allied Drive street sign.
- One of the teens had a shotgun.
- Police stopped and searched the vehicle, officers found a shotgun loaded with six shells, one of which had "14KKK" "24KKK" and "34END" written on it.

# **Hate Crimes**

## **General Information**

# Hate Crimes – General Information

- Hate Crimes are not new.
- They have been happening for hundreds of years.
- The Ku Klux Klan was founded in 1865.
- Emmitt Till was murdered in 1955

# Hate Crimes – General Information

- In 2001, research showed 243 incidents against Asian Pacific Americans,
  - Generally South Asian Americans mistaken for Muslim and/or Arab Americans, occurred in the three months following 9/11

# Hate Crimes – General Information

- As of January 2002, there had been more than 1,700 cases of discrimination against Arab Americans, Muslim Americans, Sikh Americans, and South Asian Americans

# Hate Crimes – General Information

- In October 2008 the FBI released its Hate Crime Statistics for 2007
  - 7,624 criminal incidents were reported in 2007

# Hate Crimes – General Information

## FBI Statistics

- 50.8 percent motivated by **racial** bias
- 18.4 percent motivated by **religious** bias
- 16.6 percent motivated by **sexual orientation** bias
- 13.2 percent motivated by **ethnicity/national origin** bias
- 1 percent motivated by **disability** bias

# Hate Crimes – General Information

- overall number of reported hate crimes remained steady from 2006 to 2007
- 2007 statistics show continued increases in reported violent attacks against persons of **Hispanic origin** and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (**LGBT**) persons

# Hate Crimes – General Information Against Hispanic Population

- According to the new FBI report, there were 595 incidents of anti-Hispanic hate crimes in 2007, an **increase of 3.3%** from incidents reported in 2006.
- Anti-Hispanic **violence rose by 35 percent** between 2003 and 2006

# Hate Crimes – General Information Against LGBT Population

- According to the new FBI report, there were 1265 incidents of anti-LGBT hate crimes in 2007, an **increase of 5.5%** from incidents reported in 2006.
- **Anti-LGBT violence rose by 24 percent** between 2006 and 2007

# **Hate Crimes – General Information Against LGBT Population**

- **Sexual orientation bias crimes are characterized by a high level of violence**
- **A higher proportion of personal assaults than in other categories of hate crime**
  - **over 47% of sexual orientation bias offenses were violent assaults,**
  - **in comparison to 31% for all hate crimes**

# Hate Crimes – General Information

## Wisconsin Statistics

- Hate Crimes nearly doubled in Wisconsin from 43 in 1996 to 84 in 2006
- One example: Windsor in April 2008 - The letters 'KKK' were painted on a Hmong family's truck and the vehicle's interior was set on fire

# Hate Groups

# Hate Groups

- The Southern Poverty Law Center issued a report titled "The Year in Hate," it counted 888 hate groups in its latest tally, up from 844 in 2006.
- The 888 groups represent a 48% increase of these groups since 2000

# Hate Groups - Symbolism

- 88 = the number 88 represents the phrase "*Heil* Hitler," because H is the eighth letter in the alphabet
- 14 = late David Lane, a member of the Ku Klux Klan and co-founder of a white-power revolutionary group wrote a 14-word mission statement while in federal prison: "We must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children."

# Hate Groups - Symbolism

- 4/20 = Hitler's birthday – Heath Campbell named his son, Adolf Hitler Campbell.
  - Dad denies the Holocaust occurred and decorates his home with swastikas.
  - "They're just names, you know," Heath Campbell said. "Yeah, they (the Nazis) were bad people back then. But my kids are little. They're not going to grow up like that."
  - The parents insist they are not racist, although they don't believe in mingling the races.

# Hate Groups - Symbolism

- 311 = refers to the Ku Klux Klan, because K is the 11<sup>th</sup> letter, repeated three times
- 33/6 = that's three times 11, with the number six standing for the current period of the Klan's history, which the group has divided into six eras
- 5 = represents resistance to law enforcement in the form of this five-word response to interrogation: "I have nothing to say."

# Then Senator Obama & Election 2008

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- October 2008 e-mail sent to Jewish voters in Pennsylvania
- Suggested that a vote for Barack Obama would be a “tragic mistake” and “Jewish Americans cannot afford to make the wrong decision,” adding that “many of our ancestors ignored similar warning signs in the 1930s and 1940s.”

# Then Senator Obama & Election 2008

- E-mail Response: Anti-Defamation League stated, “Ugly, divisive personal attacks against a candidate for any political office should never be acceptable, and using Holocaust analogies is completely beyond the pale.”

# Then Senator Obama & Election 2008

- October 2008 – Men charged with plotting to kill Barack Obama
- Federal prosecutors charged 2 men with plotting a “killing spree” against African Americans that would have ended with an attempt to kill then Senator Obama.

# Then Senator Obama & Election 2008

- The 2 men planned on killing over 100 African-Americans
  - 14 would be beheaded
  - 88 would be shot
  - Finally they were going to dress up in white tuxedos and white top hats, rent a limo and drive the car towards then Senator Obama shooting as they went.

# President-Elect Obama & Election 2008

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- January 16, 2009: neo-Nazi Hal Turner, suggested on a forum the use of an unmanned drone carrying explosives to attack inaugural crowds, said a mass murder of those attending the festivities “would be a public service.”
- He stated, “I make no apology to those affected or their families.”

# President-Elect Obama & Election 2008

- January 16, 2009: Federal authorities arrested a Wisconsin man for threatening to assassinate Obama in an Internet post.
- On January 11, 2009, he wrote “Yes, I have decided I will assassinate Barack Obama. It’s really nothing personal about the man. ... But I know it’s for the country’s own good that I can do this. Barack Obama, I view more as a sacrificial lamb...”

# President-Elect Obama & Election 2008

- This same Wisconsin man also allegedly posted, “It’s not because I’m racist that I will kill Barack, it’s because I can no longer allow the Jewish parasites to bully their way into making the American people submit to their evil ways.”

# Record Number of Hate Incidents

# Record Number of Hate Incidents

- Hundreds of incidents of abuse or intimidation motivated by racial hatred since the November 4<sup>th</sup> election
- a record in modern presidential elections

# Record Number of Hate Incidents - example

- Rexburg, Idaho
- A day or two after the election during the bus ride home, elementary school kids began chanting, “Assassinate Obama, assassinate Obama.”

# Record number of hate incidents - example

- A parent found out about it when their second and third graders got off the bus and reported the chanting.
- The school superintendent sent an email to teachers, principals and bus drivers about the incident and indicated the students should be told that behavior is unacceptable.

# Record number of hate incidents - example

- When asked if there was to be any further action since the email, the School District's representative allegedly said, "I don't know what you mean. It's not even like that. It was the day after the election, and the kids were just chanting, really little kids, like six, seven and eight."

# Record number of hate incidents - examples

- North Carolina State University students admit writing anti-Obama comments in a tunnel, including “Let’s shoot that (N-word) in the head.”
- Standish, Maine: sign inside store read, “Osama Obama Shotgun Pool.” People could bet a \$1 on a date when Obama would be killed. At bottom of board, was written, “Let’s hope someone wins.”

# Record number of hate incidents - examples

- Long Island, New York: Two dozen spray-painted with racist graffiti.
- Los Angeles, CA: swastikas, racial slurs and “Go Back to Africa” were spray-painted on sidewalks, houses and cars.
- Hardwick, NJ & Apolocan Township, PA: crosses burned in yards of Obama supporters.

# Hate Crimes in WI

# Hate Crimes in WI

- According to FBI statistics hate crimes have nearly doubled in Wisconsin from 1996 to 2006

# WI Hate Crimes examples - 2008

- Madison – 2 incidents in late April, early May  
– A large swastika was discovered on the front doors of Temple Beth Israel on April 25<sup>th</sup> then in early May a second swastika and the words 'die Jew' were marked on the brick wall
- Madison – April 2008 – KKK was marked on a door of an apartment building on Monroe Street and a person's car.

# WI Hate Crimes examples - 2008

- Platteville - Four men allegedly yelled anti-gay epithets and attacked a student.
- Appleton – a man was charged with battery as a hate crime for allegedly walking up to an African-American man and punching him while saying he didn't like people of other races. Verhaagh also displayed tattoos of a swastika and a likeness of Adolf Hitler.

# WI Hate Crimes examples - 2008

- Pleasant Springs – a man faces tentative charges of three counts of second-degree recklessly endangering safety, three counts of disorderly conduct with a hate crime enhancer and drunken driving after he allegedly yelled threats and racial slurs at three employees at a fast-food restaurant because his food wasn't ready quickly enough.

# WI Hate Crimes examples - 2008

- Madison – December 14, 2008 – a man allegedly created a disturbance because his jacket was moved. People entered the Tilted Kilt restaurant and looked for a place to sit and seeing a jacket asked a waitress if anyone was sitting there. The waitress said no and said he could move the jacket.
- Continued ...

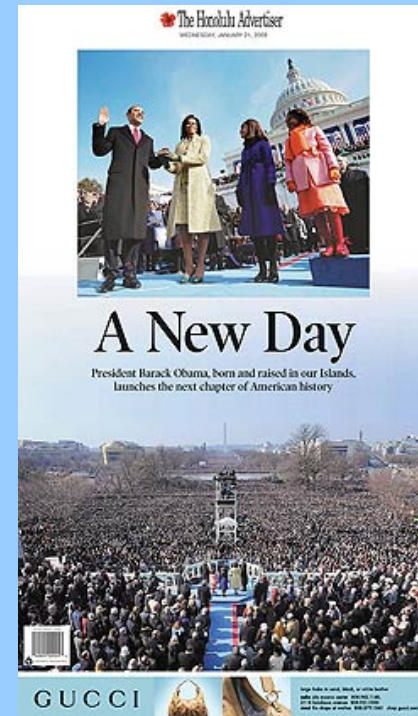
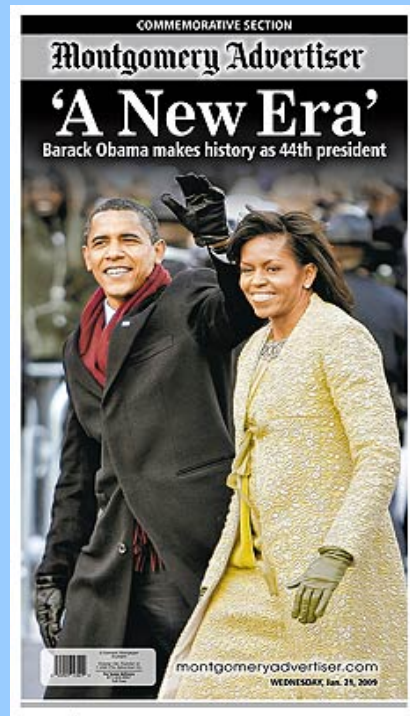
# WI Hate Crimes examples - 2008

- Person sat with friends when Renard returned and demanded to know what happened to his jacket. He then yelled racial slurs at the victim, a dark-skinned man from South America. He continued to verbally assault the victim and allegedly threatened to kill people in the bar.

What can you do?

# What can you do?

- Have hope - Barack Obama was elected to be President of the United States



# What can you do?

- Support National Hate Crimes Law – this law does not impact free speech
  - A minister quoting the bible regarding homosexuality is not automatically arrested – remember the beginning of the presentation, a crime must first be committed
  - Allows the federal government to investigate more crimes and to assist local agencies that do not have the resources or are unwilling to investigate local incidents

# What can you do?

- Get involved locally
  - Contact STAJOH -  
[www.cityofmadison.com/dcr/eoHateCrimes.cfm](http://www.cityofmadison.com/dcr/eoHateCrimes.cfm)

# What can you do?

- Report anything you see and encourage others to do the same – even if it is not a crime – remember Motivation can be demonstrated in a variety of ways. Homophobic, racist or other hate literature left on cars or doors should be reported. By itself, this material is not unlawful, and is protected by the First Amendment, but may be helpful to law enforcement intelligence gathering efforts

Thank you